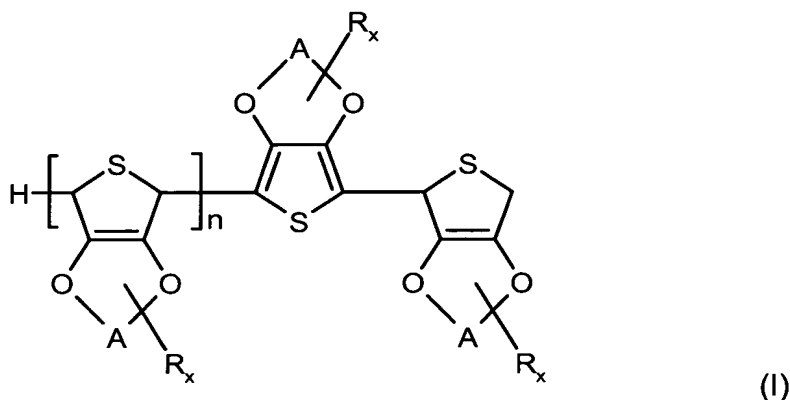


IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Compounds ~~of the~~ represented by general formula (I), ~~characterized in that~~



wherein,

A is an optionally substituted C₁-C₄-alkylene radical,

R is one or more identical or different, linear or branched, optionally substituted C₁-C₁₈-alkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C₅-C₁₂-cycloalkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C₆-C₁₄-aryl radical(s), optionally substituted C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkyl radical(s) or one or more hydroxyl radical(s),

x is an integer from 0 to 8, and

n is 0 or 1.

2. (Currently Amended) The compounds ~~Compounds according to of~~
Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein,

A is an optionally substituted C₂- or C₃-alkylene radical,

R is one or more identical or different, linear or branched, optionally substituted C₁-C₁₈-alkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C₅-C₁₂-cycloalkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C₆-C₁₄-aryl radical(s), optionally substituted C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkyl radical(s) or a hydroxyl radical,

x is an integer from 0 to 6, and

n is 0 or 1.

3. (Currently Amended) The compounds ~~Compounds according to of~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein,

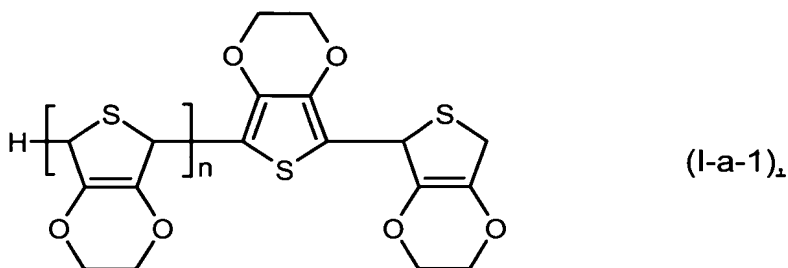
A is an optionally substituted C₂- or C₃-alkylene radical,

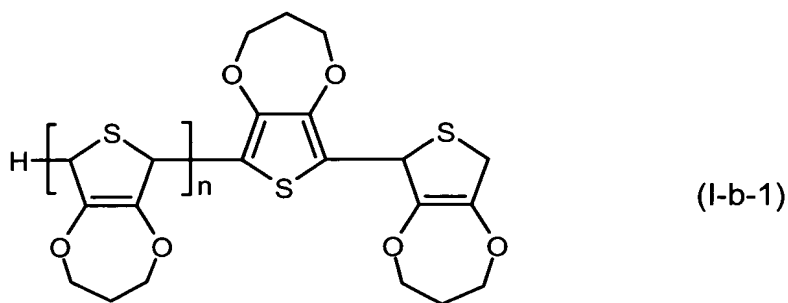
R is a linear or branched, optionally substituted C₁-C₁₄-alkyl radical, an optionally substituted C₁-C₂-hydroxyalkyl radical or a hydroxyl radical,

x is 0 or 1, and

n is 0 or 1.

4. (Currently Amended) The compounds of ~~Compounds according to~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said compounds they have a structure of the selected from the group consisting of general formulae (I-a-1) ~~or~~ and (I-b-1),

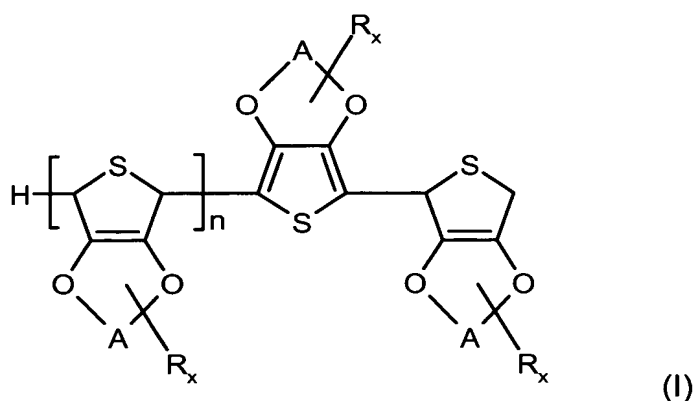




where

n is 0 or 1.

5. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ for preparing compounds of the represented by general formula (I),



wherein,

A , R , x and n are each as defined in Claim 1,

A is an optionally substituted C_1 - C_4 -alkylene radical,

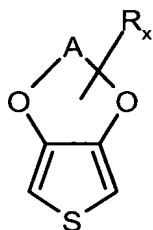
R is one or more identical or different, linear or branched, optionally substituted C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C_5 - C_{12} -cycloalkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C_6 - C_{14} -aryl radical(s), optionally substituted C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl radical(s) or one or more hydroxyl radical(s),

x is an integer from 0 to 8, and

n is 0 or 1,

said method comprising,

reacting providing compounds of the represented by general formula (II),



(II)

wherein,

A, R and x are each as ~~defined in Claim 1~~ described for formula (I),

and

reacting the compounds represented by formula (II) with each other in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of Lewis acids, and/or protic acids as catalyst and combinations thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (I) according to of Claim 5, characterized in that the catalysts used are~~ wherein said catalyst is selected from non-oxidizing Lewis acids.

7. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (I) according to of Claim 6, characterized in that the catalysts used are~~ wherein said non-oxidizing Lewis acids are selected from the group consisting of the boron trihalides, and aluminium trihalides, phosphorus trihalides, titanium tetrahalides, or zirconium tetrahalides, tin(IV) halides, arsenic halides, and antimony halides, tantalum pentahalides and zinc halides.

8. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (I) according to of Claim 7, characterized in that the catalysts used are~~ said non-oxidizing Lewis acids are selected from the group consisting of boron trifluoride, antimony pentachloride, titanium tetrachloride and tin tetrachloride.

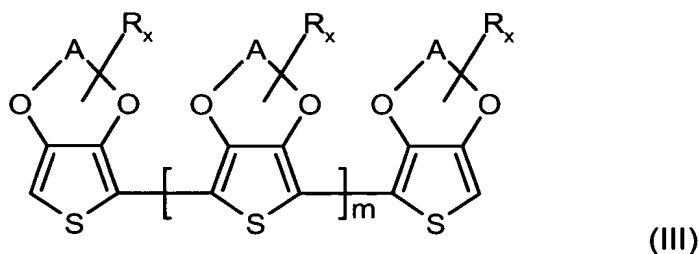
9. (Currently Amended) ~~The process~~ Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (I) according to ~~of~~ Claim 5, characterized in that the catalysts used are wherein said catalyst is a protic acid[[s]] selected from the group consisting of the sulphonic acids, or carboxylic acids and superacids.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The process~~ Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (I) according to ~~of~~ Claim 9, characterized in that the catalyst used wherein said protic acid is selected from the group consisting of p-toluenesulphonic acid, methanesulphonic acid, camphor-10-sulphonic acid or and trifluoroacetic acid.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing ~~neutral or cationic a~~ polythiophene[[s]] comprising ~~providing~~ polymerizing the compounds of Claim 1 ~~the~~ represented by general formula (I),

wherein said polythiophene is selected from the group consisting of neutral polythiophenes and cationic polythiophenes.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A process~~ Process for preparing neutral or cationic polythiophenes ~~of the~~ represented by general formula (III),



wherein,

~~A, R and x are each defined in Claim 1 and~~

A is an optionally substituted C₁-C₄-alkylene radical.

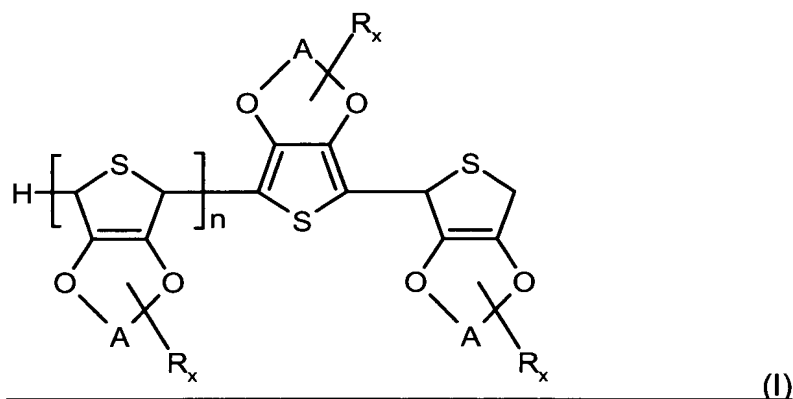
R is one or more identical or different, linear or branched, optionally substituted C₁-C₁₈-alkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C₅-C₁₂-cycloalkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C₆-C₁₄-aryl radical(s), optionally substituted C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkyl radical(s) or one or more hydroxyl radical(s).

x is an integer from 0 to 8, and

m is an integer from 2 to 200,

said method comprising

(i) providing compounds represented by the following formula (I),



wherein A, R and x are as described for formula (III), and
n is 0 or 1, and

(i) polymerizing the compounds represented by formula (I),
wherein the polymerization step is performed by a method selected from the
group consisting of chemical polymerization, electrochemical polymerization
and oxidative polymerization ~~chemically or electrochemically, oxidatively~~
~~polymerizing compounds of the general formula (I) according to Claim 1.~~

13. (Original) A process for producing parts of electrical or electronic components comprising providing the compounds of the general formula (I) according to Claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a part of an electrical or electronic component comprising providing the compounds of the general formula (III) which have been prepared by ~~[[a]] the process according to~~ of Claim 12.

15. (Original) The process of Claim 14 wherein the part is a cathode or a capacitor.